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(54) Title of the Utility Model: POLISHING INSPECTION DEVICE IN WAFER POLISHING APPARATUS

(21) Application Number: S63-166251

(22) Application Filing Date: December 21, 1988

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Specification

1. Title of the Utility Model

POLISHING INSPECTION DEVICE IN WAFER POLISHING APPARATUS

2. Claims of Utility Model

(1) A polishing inspection device in a wafer polishing apparatus consisting of a fixed table having a polishing cloth stretched over the top surface thereof, and a holder for pressing a wafer against the polishing cloth of said fixed table, while rotating the wafer, the device being characterized in that an inspection hole facing the polishing surface of said wafer is provided in said fixed table and polishing cloth, and a projecting optical fiber for illuminating the polishing surface of said wafer with light and a receiving optical fiber for receiving the reflected light from the polishing surface of said wafer are inserted into the inspection hole.

3. Detailed Description of the Utility Model

[Field of Industrial Application]

The present utility model relates to a device for inspecting the polishing progress state of the wafer in a wafer polishing apparatus for polishing the surface of wafers used in the manufacture of semiconductor chips.

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[Related Technology and Problems the Utility Model Aims to Address]

It is well known that in the conventional wafer polishing apparatuses, a polishing cloth is stretched over the top surface of a fixed table, a polishing liquid is supplied to the polishing cloth, a wafer that is the object of polishing is mounted on the lower surface of a rotary holder, and the surface of the wafer is pressed against the polishing cloth stretched over the fixed table, while the wafer is rotated, thereby polishing the surface of the wafer. With such a structure of conventional wafer polishing apparatuses, the polishing progress state on the wafer surface cannot be determined during polishing operation.

For this reason, in order to inspect whether the wafer surface has been polished to the prescribed level, the following procedure was employed. The polishing process was conducted for an appropriate time, then the rotation of the holder was stopped and it was removed from the fixed table to inspect the polishing progress state on the wafer surface with the naked eye or with a microscope. When the polishing was found to be insufficient, it was resumed and conducted for an appropriate time and then again the inspection was conducted with the naked eye or microscopic observations. Therefore, before the wafer surface was polished to a smooth surface, the operation of pressing the wafer against the fixed table with a holder and polishing, while rotating the wafer, and the operation of terminating the rotation of the holder, removing it from the fixed table, and inspecting the wafer surface with the naked eye or with a microscope were alternately repeated. This procedure greatly decreased the operation efficiency of polishing and increased significantly the cost of polishing.

It is in object of the present utility model to increase the operation efficiency of polishing by providing a device suitable for rapidly inspecting the polishing progress state on the wafer surface, without detaching the holder from the fixed table.

[Means to Resolve the Problems]

In order to attain the aforementioned object, the present utility model provides for a wafer polishing apparatus comprising a fixed table having a polishing cloth stretched over the top surface thereof, and a holder for pressing a wafer against the polishing cloth at the fixed table, while rotating the wafer, the device being characterized in that an inspection hole facing the polishing surface of the wafer is provided in the fixed table and polishing cloth, and a projecting optical fiber for illuminating the polishing surface of the wafer with light and a receiving optical fiber for reflecting the reflected light from the polishing surface of the wafer are inserted in the inspection hole.

[Operation and Effect of the Utility Model]

In the above-described configuration, if the rotation of the holder is terminated and the polishing surface of the wafer is illuminated with light from a projecting optical fiber, this light will be reflected by the polishing surface of the wafer and the reflected light will be received by the receiving optical fiber.

In this case, the light that is reflected by the polishing surface of the wafer has a low intensity at the initial stage of polishing, but the intensity thereof increases as the surface becomes smooth in the course of polishing. Therefore, the polishing progress state of the wafer can be detected based on the reflected light that is received by the aforementioned receiving optical fiber. As a result, when the polishing state is inspected, the aforementioned conventional operation of terminating the rotation of the holder, removing the holder from the fixed table, and observing the polishing surface of the wafer with the naked eye or with a microscope can be omitted.

Therefore, with the present utility model, the operation efficiency of substrate polishing can be greatly improved and the polishing cost can be substantially reduced.

[Embodiments]

An embodiment of the present utility model will be described herein below with reference to the appended drawings. In the drawings, the reference numeral 1 stands for a fixed table having a polishing cloth 2 stretched over the top surface thereof. The reference numeral 3 stands for a holder that is so provided above the fixed table 1 that the holder can move in the vertical direction. A wafer 4 is fixedly attached to the lower surface of the holder with a wax 5 or by vacuum suction. The wafer is rotated while being pressed against the polishing cloth 2 located at the top surface of the fixed table 1. When the holder 3 is rotated, the surface of the wafer 4 is brushed against the polishing cloth 2 and polished.

A plurality of drain holes 6 are provided in the fixed table 1 in order to drain the polishing liquid supplied to the polishing cloth 2 located at the top surface of the fixed table. Drain tubes 7 for the polishing liquid are connected to these drain holes 6.

The reference numeral 8 stands for an inspection cable containing inside thereof two optical fibers: a projecting optical fiber 9 and a receiving optical fiber 10. One end of the inspection cable 8 is detachably connected to the drain tube 7, and the projecting optical fiber 9 and receiving optical fiber 10 located inside the cable are inserted into the drain hole 6 so that the light projected by the projecting optical fiber 9 onto the surface of the wafer 4 is reflected by the surface of the wafer 4 and received by the receiving optical fiber 10. The other end of the inspection cable 8 is connected to the inspection circuit 11 consisting of a light-emitting element 12, such as a laser, corresponding to the projecting optical fiber 9, and a photoelement 13 corresponding to the receiving optical fiber 10.

The connection portion of the aforementioned inspection cable 8 in the drain tube 7 for the polishing liquid is so constructed that when the inspection cable 8 is not connected to the connection portion, the connection portion is closed with a lid (not shown in the figures).

The light emitted by the light-emitting element 12 in the inspection circuit 11 illuminates, via the projecting optical fiber 9, the surface of the wafer 4, which is pressed by the holder 3 against the polishing cloth 2 at the fixed table 1, and the reflected light is received via the receiving optical fiber 10 by the photolement 13 located in the inspection circuit 11.

In this case, the light reflected from the surface of the wafer 4 has a low intensity at the initial stage of polishing, that is, when the surface of the wafer 4 is rough, and increases gradually as the surface of the wafer 4 becomes smooth in the course of polishing. Therefore, the polishing progress state, that is, the smoothness of the surface of the wafer 4 can be detected based on the output of the photoelement 13.

Further, this embodiment described a case in which one of the drain holes 6 was used as an inspection hole by inserting the projecting optical fiber 9 and receiving optical fiber 10 into one drain hole 6 of a plurality of drain holes 6 provided in the fixed table 1. However, the inspection hole for inserting the projecting optical fiber 9 and receiving optical fiber 10 may be also provided separately from the drain hole 6. Furthermore, when a hole for supplying the polishing liquid is provided in the fixed table 1, this polishing liquid supply hole also may be used as the inspection hole for inserting the projecting optical fiber 9 and receiving optical fiber 10.

4. Brief Description of the Drawings

The appended figures illustrate an embodiment of the present utility model. FIG. 1 is a front view and FIG. 2 is an enlarged cross-sectional view of the main part shown in FIG. 1.

1 – fixed table; 2 – polishing cloth; 3 – holder; 4 – wafer; 6 – drain hole; 8 – inspection cable; 9 – projecting optical fiber; 10 – receiving optical fiber; 11 – inspection circuit; 12 – light-emitting element; 13 – photoelement.

Utility Model Applicant: Rohm Co., Ltd. Representative: Akio Iwai, Patent Attorney

Figure 1 [see original for diagram]

Figure 2 [see original for diagram]

Public Utility Bulletin 2-86128 Representative: Akio Iwai, Patent Attorney

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Certificate of Accuracy

This is to certify that the attached document, Patent H2-86128, Public Utility Model Disclosure Bulletin (U), originally written in Japanese, is, to the best of our knowledge and belief, true, accurate and complete translation into English.

Dated: April 29, 2004

Thomas J. Jobin

Operations Manager, Translations

Merrill Corporation

JACQUELINE THROPE
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of New York
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Qualified in Queens County
Certificate filed in New York County
Commission Expires August 28, 2006

Sworn to and signed before

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⑲ 日本国特許庁(JP)

①実用新案出願公開

⑫ 公開実用新案公報(U)

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❸公開 平成2年(1990)7月9日

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審査請求 未請求 請求項の数 1 (全 2 頁)

❷考案の名称

ウエハ用研磨機における研磨検査装置

②実 顧 昭63-166251

②出 顧 昭63(1988)12月21日

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②代 理 人 弁理士 石井 暁夫

切実用新案登録請求の範囲

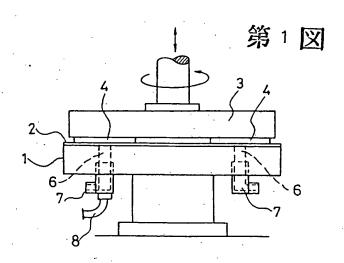
上面に研磨クロスを張設した固定定盤と、該固定定盤における研磨クロスにウェハを回転しながら押圧するホルダーとから成るウェハ研磨装置において、前記固定定盤及び研磨クロスに、前記ウェハにおける研磨表面にのぞむ検査孔を穿設し、この検査孔内に、前記ウェハにおける研磨表面に対して光を照射するための投光用光ファイバーと、前記ウェハにおける研磨表面からの反射光を受光するための受光用光ファイバーとを挿入した

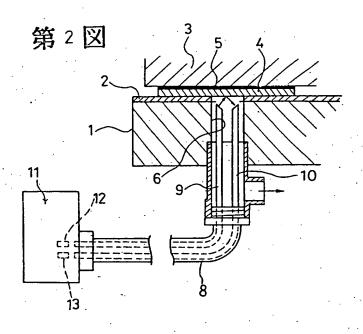
ことを特徴とするウエハ用研磨機における研磨検 査装置。

図面の簡単な説明

図面は本考案の実施例を示し、第1図は正面 図、第2図は第1図の要部拡大断面図である。

1……固定定盤、2……研磨クロス、3……ホルダー、4……ウエハ、6……ドレイン孔、8……検査用ケーブル、9……投光用光フアイバー、10……受光用光フアイバー、13……受光素子。





Partial English translation of Cited Document 2

Utility Model Application No. S63-166251

(57) Claim

A wafer polishing machine comprising a fixed surface plate provided on an upper face thereof with a polishing (abrasive) cloth in a spanning manner and a holder which presses a wafer onto the polishing cloth while rotating the polishing cloth, wherein an inspection hole facing a surface of the wafer to be polished is bored in the fixed surface plate and the polishing cloth, and a light emitting optical fiber for irradiating light to the surface of the wafer to be polished and a light receiving fiber for receiving reflected light from the surface of the wafer to be polished are inserted into the inspection hole.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Drawings show an embodiment of the present invention, where Fig. 1 is a front view and Fig. 2 is an enlarged sectional view of a main portion in Fig. 1.

1...fixed surface plate; 2...polishing cloth; 3...holder; 4...wafer; 6...drain hole; 8...inspection cable; 9...light emitting fiber; 10...light receiving fiber; 11...inspection circuit; 12...light emitting element; and 13 light receiving element.

⑩ 日本 国 特 許 庁(JP)

①実用新業出職公開

⊕ 公開実用新案公報(U) 平2-86128

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審査請求 未請求 請求項の数 1 (全 頁)

❷考案の名称 ウェハ用研磨機における研磨検査装置

倒实 版 昭63-168251

❷出 版 昭63(1988)12月21日

東大

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砂代 理 人 弁理士 石井 暁夫

- 1. 考案の名称
 - ウエハ用研磨機における研磨検査装置
- 2. 実用新案登録請求の範囲
- - 3. 考案の詳細な説明

(産業上の利用分野)

本考案は、半導体チップの製造に際して使用するウェハの表面を研磨するためのウエハ用研磨機 において、前記ウエハにおける研磨の進行状態を

検査するための装置に関するものである。

(従来の技術及び考案が解決しようとする課題)



の平滑表面に研防するまでの間、ウェハをホルダーによって回転しながら固定定盤に押圧する研節 操作と、ホルダーをその回転を停止したのち固定 定盤から離してウェハの表面を内眼又は顕微鏡に よる観察にて検査することを、交互に繰り返すよ うにしているから、研磨の作業能率が潜しく低く て、研磨に要するコストが大幅に帯むのであった。

本考案は、ウエハの表面における研磨の進行状態を、ホルダーを固定定盤から触すことなく迅速 に検査できる装置を提供することにより、研磨の 作業簡率を向上することを目的とする。

(課題を解決するための手段)

この目的を達成するため本考案は、上面に研密 クロスを獲扱した固定定盤と、該固定定盤におけ る研磨クロスにウエハを回転しながら押圧するホ ルダーとから成るウエハ研密装置において、前 記定盤及び研磨クロスに、前記ウエハにおいる 研磨表面にのぞむ検査孔を穿扱し、この検査孔内 に、前記ウエハにおける研磨表面に対して光を照 があための換光用光ファイバーと、前記ウエハ



における研密表面からの反射光を受光するための 受光用光ファイバーとを挿入する構成にした。

(考案の作用・効果)

この構成において、ホルダーの回転を停止し、 ウェハにおける研磨表面に、投光用光ファイバー より光を照射すると、この光はウェハにおける研 路表面に反射して、その反射光が受光用光ファイ パーにより受光される。

従って本考案によると、ウェハにおける研磨の 作業機率を寄しく向上できて、研磨に要するコス



トを大幅に低減することができる効果を有する。 (実施例)

前記固定定盤」には、その上面における研磨クロス2に供給した研磨液を排出するためのドレイン孔6が複数個穿費され、この各ドレイン孔6には、研磨液の排出管7が接続されている。

符号 8 は、投光用光ファイバー 9 と、受光川光ファイバー 1 0 との二本の光ファイバーを内蔵した検査用ケーブルを示し、接検査用ケーブル 8 の一端を、前記排出管 7 に対して若脱自在に接続す



ると共に、その内部における投光用光ファイバー 9 と受光用光ファイバー10との両方を、前記ドレイン孔6内に、投光用光ファイバー9から前記 ウエハ4の表面に向って照射した光をウエハイの表面に向って脱射と受光用光ファイバー を面で反射させ、その反射光を受光用光ファイバー 10にて受光するように挿入する一方、前記 を用ケーブル8の他端を、前記投光用光ファイル 9に対するレーザー等の発光系子12と、前記 受光用光ファイバー10に対する受光素子13と を備えた検査回路11に接続する。

なお、前配研游液の排出管?における前記検査 用ケーブル8の接続部は、当該接続部に検査用ケ ープル8を接続しないときには、図示しない言葉 にて塞いでおくように構成する。

前記検査回路 1 1 における 2 光楽子 1 2 で 2 光 した光は、投光用光ファイバー 9 を介して、 固定 定盤 1 における研磨クロス 2 にホルダー 3 によっ て押圧されたウェハ 4 の表面に 照射され、 その反 射光は、 受光用光ファイバー 1 0 を介して、 前記 検査国路 1 1 における受光素子 1 3 によって受光 される.

この場合において、ウエハ4における表面からの反射光は、ウエハ4の表面が粗いとき、つまり、研密を開始した当初は弱く、ウエハ4の表面が研磨の進行により満らかになるに伴って次第に強くなるものであるから、受光素子13における出力により、ウエハ4における表面の平満度、つまり、研密の進行の状態を検出することができるのである。



るための検査孔として利用するようにしても良い のである。

4. 図面の簡単な説明

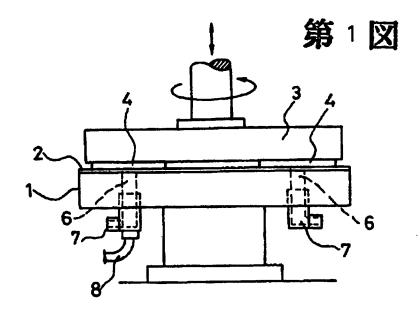
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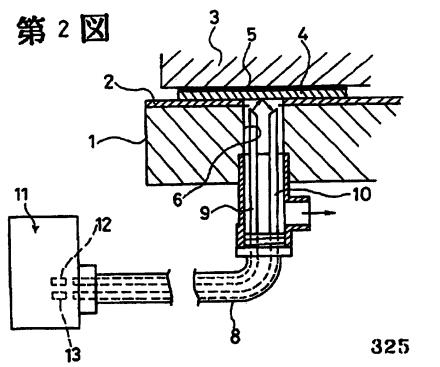
1 · · · 固定定盤、 2 · · · 研磨クロス、 3 · · · ホルダー、 4 · · · ウェハ、 6 · · · ドレイン孔、 8 · · · 検査用ケープル、 9 · · · 技光用光ファイバー、 1 0 · · · 受光用光ファイバー、 1 1 · · · 検査回路、 1 2 · · · 発光素子、 1 3 · · · 受光案子。

実用新案登録出願人 ローム 株式会社

化理人 弁理士 石井 晓夫







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